



Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Office of Public Affairs

For Immediate Release
September 16, 2008

Contact: Chuck Wolfe
Chuck.Wolfe@ky.gov
502-564-3419

Governor Beshear Announces Transportation Enhancement Funding for Kentucky Railway Museum

Investment will boost tourism for New Haven, Nelson County and the commonwealth

FRANKFORT, Ky. – Governor Steve Beshear today announced \$417,750 in funding for a Transportation Enhancement (TE) project in the city of New Haven. The money will allow the Kentucky Railway Museum (KRM) to complete site work and installation of a preserved historic railroad turntable.

“My administration is committed to safeguarding Kentucky’s past in order to enlighten future generations,” said Gov. Beshear. “It is altogether appropriate that this important piece of our nation’s transportation history be preserved here at the Kentucky Railway Museum, which is the official railway museum of the commonwealth.”

The turntable was built and installed in 1911 in Louisville near the river front for the “Big Four Railroads” coming into Louisville from Indiana and Ohio. The turntable allowed the turning of steam engines and cars to head south, west and north. It is unique because it was built by a Pittsburg, PA steel company, which built bridges to very high and exacting standards. Most turntables at the time were built by railroad companies.

Because of the quality of its construction the table is in remarkably good condition. It was slated to be cut up for scrap in 1979, but it was given a last minute reprieve if the Kentucky Railway Museum could remove it within a two week time frame. Volunteers successfully disassembled it, removed it, placed it on flat cars and transported it to New Haven for storage.

After it is reassembled and installed in New Haven the turntable will allow the KRM to move engines, coaches, cabooses and more into and out of restoration, maintenance and repair facilities. It will also enable the KRM to move the same pieces into and out of the planned display building/roundhouse and will allow for the turning of the excursion and display engines and

coaches in which visitors ride.

“This will clearly make the Kentucky Railway Museum one of the most important facilities of its kind in the nation,” added Gov. Beshear. “This is an investment which is going to have a significant economic impact on New Haven, Nelson County and the commonwealth because of a boost in tourism.”

TE programs, which are administered by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC), offer federal funding for the pursuit of creative approaches to the integration of transportation into our communities in an environmentally friendly way.

“This is a project that will allow us to bring an important piece of Kentucky history back to life,” added Transportation Secretary Joe Prather. “It will be a fascinating display of bygone technology that will show future generations how that part of surface transportation functioned in the early 20th century.”

Complete information about TE programs is available online at <http://www.tea21.ky.gov>.

###